

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated February 1, 2007. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended, and claims 1-11 are currently pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested in consideration of the claim amendments and the following remarks.

These amendments include only minor grammatical changes and clearly add no new matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgement of priority under 35 USC § 119.

Drawings:

Applicant notes that the Examiner has not objected to nor accepted the drawings filed on February 10, 2004. Absent such an indication, Applicant assumes the drawings have been accepted. However, an indication of such is requested.

35 USC 102 Rejections

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Asada et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,609). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Asada teaches an implementation of an LCD capable of attaining multiple resolutions by adjusting the control signals used to drive the LCD. For example, Asada recognizes that a user may require an LCD to run at either a 1,024x1,280 resolution (1.0-fold), 480x680 resolution (2-fold), or a mid-range such as 800x600 (1.6-fold) (col. 1, l. 59 – col. 2, l. 6). This multi-resolution capability is achieved by selectively extending the period of and identically driving adjacent control signals (G-1 – G-8) (Figs 7, 8 and 23, col. 15, ll. 14-32, ll. 43-52, col. 16, ll. 13-29). Figs. 7 and 8 illustrate timing diagrams for a sample 256 scanline (P-1 - P-256) display, and show the differences between control signals for driving the LCD at both a high (1-fold) and low (2-fold) resolution, respectively. In both Figs. 7 and 8, the same number of control signals (8 pulse signals) are used to drive the same number of scanlines ($2^8 = 256$ scanlines). A comparison of the driving diagrams shows that, in the 2-fold resolution of Fig. 8, adjacent pairs of control signals (G-1 – G-8) are driven identically at

periods twice as long as in the 1-fold resolution setting, disclosed in Fig. 7. These control signals do not provide the input nor effect the output of vertical drive circuit 12. Accordingly, Asada does not modify the operation of the vertical drive circuit 12 in order to obtain lower resolutions, instead accomplishing the desired result using identical, adjacent control signals (Fig. 23).

Asada clearly does not disclose or suggest “...a vertical drive circuit... for successively scanning said scan lines for every adjacent plurality of scan lines in the row direction by the scan pulses and successively selecting the pixel circuits connected to said plurality of scan lines in units of the plurality of rows in said second mode.” Instead, Asada modifies control signals depending on the mode of operation, and leaving the operation of the vertical drive circuit unchanged and unaffected by the scan pulses. Asada teaches that by producing identical, adjacent control signals, it is possible to reduce LCD screen resolution without modifying the function of the vertical drive circuit. Accordingly, Asada does not teach or suggest a multi-mode vertical drive circuit capable of differing in the technique by which it associates pulse signals with scanlines, or by the technique of associating “scan pulses and successively selecting the pixel circuits connected to said plurality of scan lines in units of the plurality of rows” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Asada not only does not teach Applicant’s claimed invention, but also effectively teaches away from it, by providing a completely distinct alternative means of reducing screen resolution.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Asada fails to disclose, suggest or in any way teach the features of independent claim 1. For similar reasons, independent claim 9 is also neither disclosed nor suggested by Asada (although claims 1 and 9 should be interpreted solely based upon the limitations set forth therein). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 9 and dependent claims 2-8 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/774,568
Amendment dated
Reply to Office Action of February 1, 2007

Docket No.: SON-2919

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2919 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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April 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Amendment Transmittal

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